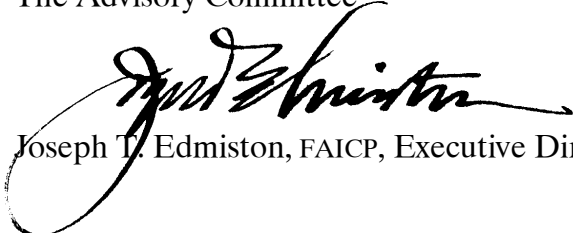


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 18, 2006

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of approximately 15 acres in upper Malibu Canyon adjacent to Las Virgenes View Park (APN 2069-010-017), Calabasas.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds in the amount of \$250,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of approximately 15 acres in upper Malibu Canyon adjacent to Las Virgenes View Park (APN 2069-010-017), Calabasas.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: The subject approximately 15 acre parcel abuts the Baldwin dedication portion of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority-owned Las Virgenes View Park. The property is highly visible from the 101 freeway and contains extensive riparian, oak woodland and cultural resources. A new trail on the MRCA property courses just above a blueline tributary on the subject property. The property is part of the Calabasas Grade Parcels Workprogram project.

A development firm has long been pursuing an apartment project on the site. The owner has suspended that contract to allow the MRCA a chance to acquire the property.

The acquisition is anticipated to be funded by funds from Los Angeles County, the City of Calabasas, MRCA in lieu mitigation funds, and a grant of Conservancy Proposition 50 funding. The City of Calabasas is scheduled to take action on September 27, 2006. The window for the acquisition requires a brisk approval rate for the funding.

In addition the property provides an excellent location for the opening of a new wildlife freeway underpass from the Crummer Canyon area. Likewise the site provides the potential to conduct extensive riparian and oak woodland restoration. No development on the site would ever be compatible with the viewshed, cultural and ecological resources. The site has superb public access and existing water sources for restoration. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached grant application for Proposition 50 funding in the sum of \$250,000.00 to acquire the property.